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ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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AN OXFORD M.A.

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Abraham Lincoln.

Charles Kingsley said :

“Let us thank any man who will tell men, in whatever clumsy and rough fashion, that they are not things, and pieces of a map, but persons, with an everlasting duty, an everlasting right and wrong, an everlasting God in Whose presence they stand, and Who will judge them according to their works. True, that is not all that men need to learn. After they are taught, each apart, that he is a man, they must be taught how to be an united people, but the individual teaching must come first.”

And this was the way in which Abraham Lincoln from early life taught himself the priceless value of his body, mind, and spirit, and through this training and self-control in all three departments of his being made himself fit for his great and responsible work in life. As long as the world lasts it will never be forgotten by mankind that he preserved the unity of the American Nation, and broke the fetters of slavery from off the coloured race ; and has left us an example of a victorious life in the eternal struggle

between the two principles of right and wrong. If ever in life you condemn a person unjustly, and you find out your mistake, the thoroughly British way is to own up to it and try and put matters right. This is what our greatest comic paper "Punch" did with regard to Abraham Lincoln; read the words slowly that you may take them in:—

"Beside this corpse that bears for winding sheet
The stars and stripes he lived to rear anew,
Between the mourners at his head and feet,
Say, scurrile jester, is there room for you?

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"Yes, he had lived to shame me from my sneer,
To lame my pencil, and confute my pen—
To make me own this hind—of princes peer,
This rail-splitter—a true born king of men."

His Early Life.

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky, on February 12th. His Father and Mother were both natives of Virginia. The Home in which he was born was both squalid and wretched—a one-roomed cabin without floor or window. Here he spent the first eight years of his life, amid poverty and privations, hardships and sufferings. The struggle for existence was very strenuous in that wilderness. His mother died when he was 10 years old, and it is

most important to remember, to her everlasting honour, that she, amid all her struggles in these wild regions, taught her son to read his Bible. We shall see how this stood him in good stead in after life, and laid the foundation of his future greatness. His father married again, and Abraham Lincoln was devoted to her, calling her a "saintly mother," "an angel of a mother," who "first made him feel like a human being." Schools were very rare, and the scholars were taught merely the rudiments of instruction. Abraham Lincoln wrote of this period :—"Of course when I came of age I did not know much, still, somehow, I could read, write, and cipher to the rule of three, but that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity." This is how he was educated, but Abraham Lincoln knew how to use the little knowledge he possessed to the best possible advantage.

The list of his books is interesting—The Bible, "The Pilgrim's Progress," "Æsop's Fables," a "History of the United States," a "Life of Washington," and "Robinson Crusoe." He knew them all by heart. He walked twelve miles once

to borrow a copy of an English Grammar. He was always using his mental powers, reading and writing, while others slept. He thought out subjects for himself, and consequently had made up his mind upon them. Paper being very scarce, he would by the aid of the firelight during the evening, write and cipher upon the back of a wooden shovel, and then shave it off to make room for more. He would take a lump of chalk and make his notes on the broader wall of the cabin. An old farmer recalls him sitting barefoot on a wood pile reading a book. This being such an extraordinary proceeding for a farm hand, he asked him what he was reading.

"I'm not reading," replied Lincoln, "I'm studying."

"Studying what?" asked the farmer.

"Law, Sir," was the dignified reply.

"Great God Almighty!" exclaimed the farmer. It was too great a shock for him.

Abraham Lincoln was of great stature, six feet four inches, and of slight but muscular build. He was very strong, one of the most powerful men America ever had. He could lift a weight of 1,200 pounds. He was great in athletics,

especially in wrestling, and there was only one man who could even dispute a fall with him. He never lost his temper.

It was in 1828 that he first saw something of the great world outside the narrow boundaries of his home, when he was nineteen years old. For a short time a neighbour employed him to accompany his son down to the river to New Orleans in a flat-boat of produce. This he carried out with great success. On his return home, his father, who was always of rather a roving disposition, tired of life in Indiana, took his family and goods in a single wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, a fourteen days' journey through the wilderness, and found himself once more in Illinois. Abraham Lincoln, on arriving, ploughed the fifteen-acre lot, and cut down from the walnut trees of the forest enough rails to fence off the little property. This ended his home life.

Soon he came of age, and having no means, and no friends, he had to earn his own living. During this period of his early life he passed through many experiences, as a farm-labourer, a clerk in a village store, working a mill, another visit to New Orleans on a flat-boat of his own invention, and lastly as a pilot. So he made his living until the year 1832, when

an event occurred, when he was 23 years of age, which brought him into public notice. Black Hawk, the celebrated Indian Chief, made an alliance with the chiefs of several other tribes, and made war upon those who were in possession of the happy hunting grounds of his ancestors. This chief was in his sixty-seventh year when he crossed the Mississippi to regain the Rock River Valley, the scenes of his early trials and triumphs. He said he had come to plant corn, to win a few victories, and then to sit down in his old age to see the corn grow as he had seen it in his youth.

Abraham Lincoln served as captain of volunteers during this war. One day during this campaign, a solitary, weary, hungry Indian found his way into Lincoln's camp. He was taken for a spy, and the inconsiderate undisciplined men were in favour of shooting him without ceremony. In the nick of time Lincoln came to the rescue, and with a face full of fire and determination, he said to the angry mob: "This must not be done. He must not be killed nor shot by us." And the passion of the men was subdued. Though in arms against Black Hawk's lawless invasion, Abraham Lincoln proved a friend in need to the individual Indian.

Though there was no battle during these short hostilities, he was acknowledged as a rising local leader. His popularity was unbounded, and the people all round the district of his home were unanimously in his favour.

His Life as a Lawyer.

When the war was over, Abraham Lincoln returned to New Salem, his home in Illinois, and commenced the study of the law, after having tried his hand as store clerk, surveyor, and postmaster. He was eminently adapted for it through having a strong logical mind. He was as earnest in his studies as he was in other labours.

His Honour Judge Parry says :—

“ Rough and ready as the formalities of justice might be, it was very necessary in the judge’s own interest to make it clear that what he was administering was really law. Too much learning was apt to puzzle a backwoodsman jury. There is a story of a foreman who returned to a learned judge to say his jury could not agree on their verdict, and on being asked what the trouble was, replied : ‘ Judge, this ’ere is the difficulty. The jury want to know if that thar what you told us was r’al’y the law or on’y jist your notion.’ ”

"Even when Lincoln joined the Illinois Bar the courts were very primitive. The judge sat on a raised platform with a pine or white wood board on which to write his notes. There was a small table on one side for the clerk, and a larger one, sometimes covered with green baize, for the lawyers, who sat around and rested their feet on it. There were few law books. The Revised Statutes, the Illinois Form Book, and a few text books might be found in most towns, but there were no extensive law libraries anywhere. From one Court-house to another the judge drove in a gig or buggy, the Bar following for the most part on horseback, with a clean shirt and one or two elementary law books in their saddlebags. Some too poor to ride tramped the circuit on foot, but as there were many horse thieves to defend, and a horse was a well-recognised fee, it was not long before a young man of ability was mounted.

"Such was the circuit when Lincoln first joined it. He was then 27 years of age, 'six feet four inches in height, awkward, ungainly, and apparently shy. He was dressed in ill-fitting home-spun clothes, the trousers a little too short and the coat a trifle too large. He had the appearance of a rustic on his first visit to the circus.' He kept his bankbook and the bulk of his letters in his hat, a silk plug, and a memo would be jotted down on paper and stuck in the lining of his hat. No wonder Stanton, the courtly advocate of Chicago, sneered contemptuously at the 'long-armed creature from Illinois,' though he learned in the end to admire and respect him.

"But the public recognised his capacity

at once. In spite of physical and social drawbacks, Lincoln as an advocate was an immediate success. He was soon on one side or the other in every important case, and was pointed out to strangers by proud citizens of Springfield as 'Abe Lincoln, the first lawyer of Illinois!' He was a great favourite, not only with the public, but with his fellow-lawyers on circuit. Although he never drank intoxicating liquor, and did not smoke or chew tobacco, he was fond of a horse-race or a cock-fight, and when addressing his fellow-countrymen drew his illustrations from these pursuits, as when he crushed a swaggering opponent who evaded his argument by saying that he reminded him of 'Bap McNabb's rooster, who was splendidly groomed and trained for the fight, but when he was thrown into the ring, turned tail and fled, and Bap yelled after him: Yes, you little cuss, you're great on dress parade, but not worth a —— in a fight!'

"But the great qualities that brought him success as an advocate were his industry, honesty, and independence. Writing to a law student who had asked him the best method of studying law, he says: 'The mode is very simple, though laborious and tedious. It is only to get books and read and study them carefully. Work, work, work is the main thing.' He himself used to read aloud when studying, for then, he said, 'Two senses catch the idea; first, I see what I read; second, I hear it, and therefore I can remember it better.' 'Billy' Herndon, his law partner, draws a quaint picture of him at a circuit inn. 'We usually at the little country inns occupied the same bed.

In most cases the beds were too short for him, and his feet would hang over the foot-board, thus exposing a limited expanse of shin bone. Placing a candle on a chair at the head of the bed he would read and study for hours.'

"His powers of homely humorous illustrations often set the courts in a roar. When Lincoln's eye twinkled and he drawled out 'That reminds me,' a chuckle of approbation ran through the Court-house as when a favourite comedian steps on the stage. It is impossible to reproduce these stories effectively in print, but as good an instance as any is the following yarn by which he illustrated his client's point of view in an assault case.

"It reminds me," he said, "of the man who was attacked by a furious dog, which he killed with a pitchfork."

"What made you kill my dog?" demanded the farmer.

"What made him try to bite me?" retorted the offender.

"But why didn't you go at him with the other end of your pitchfork?" persisted the farmer.

"Well, why didn't he come at me with his other end?"

"Again, speaking to a jury on the preponderance of evidence, and trying to explain to them what a lawyer means by the phrase, 'weight of evidence,' he laid down the legal principle in these words: 'If you were going to bet on this case, on which side would you be willing to risk a 'fippenny'? That side on which you would be willing to

bet a 'fippenny' is the side on which rests the preponderance of evidence in your minds. It is possible that you may not be right, but that is not the question. The question is as to where the preponderance of evidence lies, and you can judge exactly where it lies in your minds by deciding as to which side you would be willing to bet on.' A man who could talk horse sense after that fashion in a law court would be listened to in attentive sympathy by any twelve English-speaking men gathered together in the right box."

Little by little he rose to prominence at the Bar, and became the most effective public speaker in the West. As there were no popular entertainments in those days, the people found their chief amusement in frequenting the courts and public and political assemblies. He who entertained and amused them most was the hero of the hour. This honour fell to Abraham Lincoln.

His Life as President.

Abraham Lincoln was now twenty-six years of age, and a member of the popular branch of the Illinois Legislature. In course of time he became engaged to Miss Mary Todd, and was married privately at Springfield, Illinois, on the 4th November, 1842. There were four children of this marriage, but the only one who

survived was their son Robert, who became Secretary of War for the United States. When Abraham Lincoln was elected President on the 18th May, 1860, the citizens of Springfield turned out to a man to congratulate their esteemed fellow-townsmen. Lincoln, amid all the congratulations and hand-shaking, good-humouredly said: "Well, gentlemen, there's a little woman down at our house who would like to hear this; I'll go down and tell her." The little woman was Mrs. Lincoln, whose ambition was to become the wife of a President of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln was looked upon as the most fitting leader of the Nation in the terrible struggle for life which was before them. This struggle arose out of the tremendous question of slavery.

In a thanksgiving sermon, The Rev. J. Adams of Philadelphia stated that, having an appointment to meet the President at five o'clock in the morning, he went at a quarter of an hour before that time. While waiting for the hour, he heard a voice in the next room, as if in grave conversation, and asked the servant: "Who is talking in the next room?" "It is the President, sir." "Is anybody with him?" "No, sir, he is reading the

Bible." "Is that his habit so early in the morning?" "Yes, sir; he spends every morning, from four o'clock to five, in reading the Scriptures and praying."

President Lincoln, though a giant in stature, was of spare but muscular build, very strong and a wonderful athlete. His features were striking, his complexion dark, with a broad high forehead, prominent cheekbones, grey deep-set eyes, and bushy black hair turning to grey. He had the heart of a woman, saying on one occasion: "I have not willingly planted a thorn in any man's bosom." His patience was inexhaustible, his temper was most cheerful and sunny (though at times he had fits of deep depression), he was very sociable and sympathetic, and loved a good story and a hearty laugh. His humour often saved a situation, and bore him up under his heavy burdens of State.

Negro slavery had been firmly established in the Southern States from an early period of their history. Cotton culture by negro labour was the leading industry of the South, and the importation of slaves was greatly increased. The question was a great political one, and the Southern States struggled for its maintenance and extension. The Northern

States rose against it, and the Southern States threatened disunion if their demands were not met. Events brought about the formation of the Republican party for the purpose of preventing by constitutional methods the further extension of slavery. Abraham Lincoln from the beginning was one of the most active and efficient leaders and speakers of the new party. His arguments were powerful, and carried conviction everywhere. On the trip on the flat boat to New Orleans he had formed his opinion of slavery at the sight of negroes chained and scourged, and it was then and there that the iron entered into his soul ! Its terrible effects of injustice and cruelty were burnt into his memory through life. So we find him saying :—

“The real issue in this country is the eternal struggle between these two principles—right and wrong—throughout the world. They are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time, and will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity, and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says : ‘You work and toil and earn bread and I’ll eat it.’”

It was during this period that “Uncle Tom’s Cabin ” was published, which exposed the frightful evils of the slave

system; and the execution of John Brown for trying to incite the slaves to fight for their freedom produced that well-known song :—

“ John Brown’s body lies a-mouldering in the
grave,
But his soul goes marching on.”

No sooner was Abraham Lincoln elected President than the Southern States revolted. Seven of them seceded, and seized upon the forts, arsenals, navy yards, and other public property of the United States within their boundaries, and were making every preparation for war. Lincoln was not only President, but Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and it took him a long time, as a man of peace, to learn to be a War Minister. His first proclamation was a call for only 75,000 troops to serve for three months. How little the Commander-in-Chief and his staff thought to what gigantic proportions the war would grow. It lasted four years, and 2,000,000 were enlisted on the side of the government, and the cost of the war was enormous. But through all those four terrible years the President bore himself nobly, relying upon God in making his just decisions, kind and considerate to all who offered him advice, but deciding

every great question for himself, he was enabled to sustain the name, which for many years he had been known by, "Honest Abe Lincoln."

To understand the American Civil War we must remember that there were two elements of American life in conflict with each other. One was the spirit of the North for freedom, the other was the spirit of the South for Slavery. When Abraham Lincoln was about to sign the Emancipation Proclamation, one of his friends, Richard Yates, of Illinois, wrote : "Dear Abraham Lincoln, pause, the people are not ready for it !" What was his reply by telegraph ? (and a nobler telegram was never sent along the wires) "Dear Dick, stand still and see the salvation of God !" The proclamation was signed, and there were no longer *stripes* for the black men and *stars* for the white. It was on the first of January, 1863, the great Emancipation Proclamation was issued to America and the World, by which millions of the President's fellow-creatures were rescued from the bondage of Slavery, and raised Abraham Lincoln to a foremost place in history as a benefactor of his race. Picture to yourself the thrill in his heart, and the smile of joy on his face, while he was signing the immortal

document. Then look at a picture of this great deliverance from slavery during this great war between the Northern and Southern States. The President, Abraham Lincoln, sent a negro chaplain with a proclamation of freedom, signed by himself, to a great concourse of poor slaves. When the messenger arrived and saw the gathering of his own people, slaves with all the spirit crushed out of them, their hearts nearly broken, and many a body bearing about with it the scars of their cruel masters, we can imagine his feelings. How I should have liked to have been that messenger ! When he mounted the improvised platform and looked down upon that sea of faces, in which was written hope mingled with hopelessness, it is said that he forgot his speech, and with tears near to his eyes and filling his heart, he cried : " Fathers and mothers, I hold in my hand a proclamation signed by the President of the United States. From this moment you are free men and women. Never again shall your children be torn from your hearts and sent away to a living death." Every parent present sprang to his feet, and with intense feeling shouted : " Glory be to God."

Again the messenger lifted his voice :

“Husbands, never again shall your wife or daughter be dragged from you into worse than death.” And husbands and wives fell upon each other’s necks, and, weeping great tears of joy, shouted : “Glory be to God.” “Young men and women, never again shall you be sold into slavery ; from this moment you are free. Your chains are broken, the slave-driver’s whip must be put away.” Then all the rest of the men, women, boys, and girls sprang to their feet and cried : “Glory be to God.” One can picture the scene of intense emotion ; men and women not knowing whether to laugh or cry, to pray or dance ; the pressing forward to look at the proclamation, to kiss the signature which meant so much to them ; no longer slaves, but free. Indeed, there was only one way to express their feelings, it was “Glory be to God.” It was a moment never to be forgotten in that messenger’s life, and in the lives of those who heard the good news.

This proclamation sounded like a bugle call to the nation, and rallied the patriotism of the country to fresh sacrifices and deeds of glory. Moreover, it brought great moral and material support to the cause of the Government, for within two years 120,000 coloured troops were en-

listed in the military service, and, following the national flag, supported by all the loyalty of the North, and led by the choicest spirits. One mother said, when her son was offered the command of the first coloured regiment : " If he accepts it I shall be as proud as if I had heard that he was shot." He was shot leading a gallant charge of his regiment. The Confederates replied to a request of his friends for his body, that they " had buried him under a layer of his niggers" ; but that mother has lived to enjoy thirty-six years of his glory, and Boston has erected its noblest monument to his memory.

President Lincoln, after frequently changing his generals, discovered General Grant as the master of the situation, and supported him with all his power. The plan of General Grant was very simple ; it was to use the superior strength of the North, in money, men, and position to crush the enemy. When the full strength of the North was ready for use and made use of, victory was secured. General Grant had plenty of enemies, who urged the President to get rid of him, to which Abraham Lincoln replied :—" I can't spare that man, he fights !" Never was the President's deep sympathy more called

forth than for the bereaved and suffering relatives of those who had been killed and wounded in action. He wrote the following letter to a mother who had given all her sons to her country :—

“I have been shown,” he says, “in the files of the War Department a statement that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from your grief for a loss so overwhelming, but I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation which may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and the lost, and the solemn pride which must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.”

Dr. Fort Newton says :—

“Often his words moved with the very rhythm and cadence of the Bible music—for the Bible was his constant companion in those difficult years—and it is thus that they still walk up and down in the hearts of men. No man of State in his land ever made so profound a religious impression and appeal as Lincoln did in his last years. Amidst the wild hell of war he pleaded for mercy and the love that forgives, and the very soul of the man shone in his face which none who saw it can forget.

From the beginning of the war the

Navy of the North was well handled, and many precedents were created which have been of great service to us in this great European war. But the Victory had to be won on the field. The problem of the North was our own.

Abraham Lincoln—world patriot, in the midst of the strife that threatened to break the unity of the American nation, was not so blind that he could not see beyond the immediate task in hand. He saw that the Union, that the armies of the North were fighting a world-conflict. He perceived the deep principles underlying the immediate struggle, and, quite justly, he turned to England, the cradle of liberty, asking not for the support of her armies, but for the more subtle and more powerful support—her sympathy and moral backing.

The decisive battle of Gettysburg turned the tide of this war, and it was at the dedication of the Soldiers' Cemetery there that Abraham Lincoln said these imperishable words :—

“ We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here—but it can never forget what they did

here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

During an interview with a friend, after this speech, Abraham Lincoln said : “When I went to Gettysburg and looked upon the graves of our dead heroes who had fallen in defence of their country, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ.”

The following is one of those touching incidents that occur in wars :—

“On Christmas Eve, 1864, a regiment of the North and a regiment of the South were encamped, on either side of the Rappahannock river, where the stream, though deep, was narrow, every sound between the rival camps was heard, the strains of the military bands, as they played opposing national airs, inflamed the hostility of those brothers in deadly strife. As the Christmas evening wore on still and solemn, suddenly the band of the Southern regiment commenced the significant plaintive strain of ‘Home, Sweet Home.’ At first there was dead silence,

then the Northern band took up the strain, and the two bands softly played it together in the quiet evening air. Every angry word was silenced, every heart was hushed, sweet memories of home came flooding in, and nothing but the river kept those men from throwing themselves into each other's arms."

For four years was this terrible civil war waged. But it won for America and the World the priceless gift of freedom. Abraham Lincoln's answer to the Pacifists was "That he did not believe that a man could contract such a strong taste for emetics during a temporary illness as to insist on living on them for the rest of his life." The effect of conscription was to revive voluntary enlistment.

At the close of the Civil war, immediately after the fall of Richmond, which was the citadel of the Southern Confederacy, the leaders and generals of both parties met together in a small farmhouse to discuss the terms of peace. The Confederate leaders spread out their maps on the table, and then proceeded to state what they were willing to surrender—a fortress here, cities there, and a province yonder. The Federal leaders listened in silence, and, when all those offers were concluded, they made one simple, crushing reply: "The Government of the North must have all."

At the end of the War, President and Mrs. Lincoln (General Grant was unable to be present through pressing duties) drove to the theatre in New York to receive the expressions of joy and gratitude of the people. In spite of warnings of assassination, which his honest nature refused to believe, the hand of an actor, John Wilkes Booth, born in Baltimore, in the Slave State of Maryland, was laid upon him, and the President was shot through the head by the pistol of the assassin. Abraham Lincoln lived for a few hours, but never regained consciousness. The murderer exclaimed to the crowded audience : " So it is always with tyrants." " The South is avenged." He sprang on to the stage, and rushed to the exit, mounting a horse which was ready for him, and so escaped. His sprained ankle prevented his escape Southward, and furnished a clue which ended in his discovery and death.

Bishop Phillips Brooks, in his touching sermon at Philadelphia, while the body of the President was lying in the City, said : " God brought him up, as He brought David up from the Sheep folds to feed Jacob, His People, and Israel, His inheritance. He came up in earnestness and faith, and he goes back in triumph."

The greatest statesmen have been men of prayer. In our sister nation across the sea we have had a striking example in Abraham Lincoln, who never spoke truer words during the whole of his stormy political life than when he said : "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go ; for my own wisdom, and that of all about me, seems insufficient for the day."

He was a man of God, plain, homely, kindly, who knew that humanity is deeply wounded somewhere, and tried to heal it—and of his fame there will be no end."

Appendix.

America having thrown in its lot with Great Britain, it is most important to hear what the Leader of the United States has to say :—

President Wilson in his memorable address to Congress closed with these very remarkable words :—

"It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into

war—into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilisation itself seeming to be in the balance.

But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.

To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."

It is most important that Great Britain and America should understand each other now, because the future safety of the world lies in the unity of these two great English-speaking peoples.

In a speech at Plymouth in August, 1917, by the American Ambassador to England (Dr. Page), His Excellency said :—

"In normal times many thousands of Americans do pay visits to your kingdom, They make pilgrimages. They come for pleasure and instruction. As soon as the

war ends they will come again in still greater numbers. But in spite of visits, either way or both ways, of large numbers of individuals, each people has a vast deal of ignorance about the other. This very day I saw a statuette of Benjamin Franklin labelled George Washington. (Laughter). It is a priceless treasure that I shall take away from Plymouth. (Renewed laughter)."

We must learn from each other, and discard our exclusiveness. We must throw open wide the door, and receive the Americans as brothers, not cousins, for only as brothers can we really stand together. If only America and Britain always stood together, they could guarantee the peace of the world.

And so the prophetic words in one of John Bright's speeches which he made during the American War will become true :—

"It may be only a vision, but I will cherish it. I see one vast confederation stretching from the frozen North to the glowing South, and from the stormy billows of the Atlantic, westward to the calmer waters of the Pacific main, I see one people, and one faith, and one language."

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